Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraphs starting at page 22, lines 14-37, with the following rewritten paragraphs:

Numerous programmes are available for the design of the siRNAs of the invention:
- "siSearch Program" at:
  http.//sonnhammer.cgb.ki.se/siSearch/siSearch_1.6.html
  (Improved and automated prediction of effective siRNA," Chaml AM,
  Wahlesdelt C and Sonnhammer ELL, Biochemical and Biophysical research
  Communications, 2004).
- "SiDirect" at:
  http.//design.rnai.jp/sidirect/index. php (Direct: highly effective, target-
  specific siRNA design software for mammalian RNA interference, Yuki Naito
  et al., Nucleic Acids Res, Vol. 32, N° Web Server Issue © Oxford University
  Press, 2004).
- "siRNA Target Finder" by Ambion at the address
  http.//www.ambion.com/techlib/misc/siRNA_tools.html
- "siRNA design tool" by Whitehead Institute of Biomedical research at the MIT
  at the address http.//jura.wi.mit.edu/pubint/http://iona.wi.mit.edu/siRNAext/

Other programmes are listed at:
http.//web.mit.edu/mmcmanus/www/home1.2files/siRNAs.htm in particular:
  http.//athena.bioc.uvic.ca/cgi-
  bin/emboss.pl?_action=input&_app=sima